

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

Excellency:

The Department of State refers the Embassy of Switzerland to its note dated December 16, 2005, forwarding the note of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba, Office of North American Affairs No. RS/3310 dated December 12, 2005, to the Embassy of Switzerland in Havana, which letter reads as follows:

“The Ministry of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland and, with respect to the Interests Section of the United States of America, has the honor to refer to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America, signed at Washington, D.C., on December 16, 1977, and the agreement by both governments to apply the terms of said Agreement on a provisional basis from January 1, 1978, for a period of two years, prior to the definitive entry into force of the Agreement, on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

“The Ministry wishes to refer to the subsequent agreements between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the United States of America to extend the application this Maritime Boundary Agreement for successive periods of two-year periods, most recently through the agreement of December 16 and December 30, 2003, until December 31, 2005.

His Excellency

Christian Blickenstorfer,
Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

"On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the Ministry has the honor to propose that the terms of the Maritime Boundary Agreement of December 16, 1977, continue to apply, on a provisional basis, from January 1, 2006, for a two-year period, until such time as its definitive entry into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

"If the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America, the Ministry proposes that this note and the affirmative reply thereto, through the Interests Section of the United States of America shall constitute an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the United States of America, which shall enter into force on the date of the reply, and take effect on January 1, 2006.

"The Ministry of Foreign Relations takes this opportunity to extend to the Embassy of Switzerland the renewed assurances of its highest consideration."

The Department of State wishes to inform the Embassy and through it the Cuban Interests Section that the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Cuba to continue to apply, on a provisional basis, from January 1, 2006, for a two-year period, the terms of the Maritime Boundary Agreement, until such time as its definitive entry into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification, is acceptable to the Government of the United States of America, and that the Ministry's Note and the Department's Note in reply shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, which enters into force on the date of this note.

For the Secretary of State:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicholas Burns". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicholas" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Burns".

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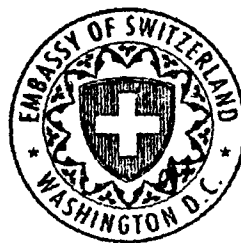


EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND

The Embassy of Switzerland presents its compliments to the U.S. Department of State and has the honor to inform that the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to continue to apply provisionally the Maritime Boundary Agreement between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba of 1977 for a period of two years starting January 1, 2006.

The Embassy of Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the U.S. Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.

Washington, D.C, December 16, 2005.



437-1

U.S. Department of State
Attn.: Office of Cuban Affairs
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520



Translation

REPUBLIC OF CUBA
Ministry of Foreign Relations
Office on North American Affairs

No. [Illegible]

The Ministry of Foreign Relations presents its compliments to the Embassy of Switzerland and, with respect to the Interests Section of the United States of America, has the honor to refer to the Maritime Boundary Agreement Between the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America, signed at Washington, D.C., on December 16, 1977, and the agreement by both governments to apply the terms of said Agreement on a provisional basis from January 1, 1978, for a period of two years, prior to the definitive entry into force of the Agreement, on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The Ministry wishes to refer to the subsequent agreements between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the United States of America to extend the application of this Maritime Boundary Agreement for successive two-year periods, most recently through the agreement of December 16 and 30, 2003, until December 31, 2005.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the Ministry has the honor to propose that the terms of the Maritime Boundary Agreement of December 16, 1977, continue to apply, on a provisional basis, beginning January 1, 2006, for a two-year period, until such time as its definitive entry into force on the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

Embassy of Switzerland,
Havana.

If the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is acceptable to the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the Government of the United States of America, through the Interests Section of the United States of America, shall constitute an agreement between the Government of the Republic of Cuba and the Government of the United States of America, which shall enter into force on the date of reply, and take effect on January 1, 2006.

[Complimentary close]

Havana, December 12, 2005

[Initialed]

[Ministry stamp]